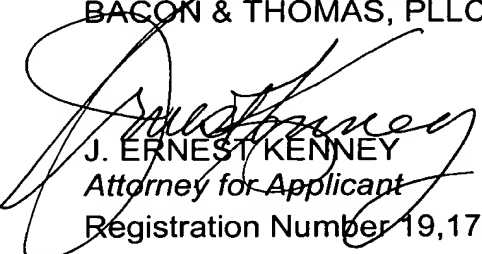


REMARKS

All rights are reserved to the original claimed subject matter. The claims have been amended to reduce the filing fees and to correct any improper multiple dependent claims. Examination of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC


J. ERNEST KENNEY
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number 19,179

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: February 24, 2000

S:\Producer\jek\PAPADOPOULOS - pct03107\preliminary amendment.wpd